

Amendments to the Specification

IN THE WRITTEN DESCRIPTION

Please replace paragraph [0007] and [0008] with the following amended paragraph:

[0007] According to the present invention maintaining the readiness of a weapon to fire depends exclusively on the strength of a signal which is continuously received by a receiver in the weapon. This signal strength must be at least as great as the strength of the signals the receiver receives when the transmitter in the user's identification mechanism is at a specified maximum distance from the weapon. For example, where the weapon is a pistol and the identification mechanism is carried on a wristband, the maximum distance between the wrist on which the wristband is secured and the holster plus a certain safety zone might be two to three meters. Therefore, maintenance of the weapon in an activation or active state is completely independent of the frequency of the signals received by the receiver according to the present invention.

[0008] The communication between the identification mechanism transmitter and the receiver in the weapon can occur by radio, infrared or ultrasound signals according to the invention. Radio signals, in particular RF signals are, however, preferably used. Maintaining the readiness of the weapon to fire is therefore exclusively dependent or depends solely upon signals received by the receiver having a field strength which corresponds at least with the field strength of the signals the receiver receives when the transmitter is at a specified maximum distance from the receiver. Thus, the weapon is activated or maintained in the active state as long as signals are received with a field strength which is equal to or greater than the field strength of the signals the receiver receives from the transmitter at the specified maximum distance. The frequency of the signals received is therefore irrelevant. Therefore it is of no importance to the present system how the signals are frequency-modulated or if

the signals are coded in another manner for the weapon to maintain the readiness to fire.

Please replace paragraph [0015] and [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

[0015] According to the present invention, both the identification mechanism and the weapon are inactive in the initial state, i.e. initial inactive state. The identification mechanism can include a switch which is initially turned on. The identification mechanism, for example the microprocessor of a fingerprint reader, is activated by this switch, which can be a Reed switch. When the identification mechanism is a wristband it is possible to close the switch when closing the wristband, thus activating the microprocessor.

[0016] In the above case, after closing the wristband at the start of a shift or prior to the use of the weapon, it is possible to input the identification mechanism or to read the fingerprint pattern without haste. After a positive comparison of the identification code by the microprocessor, here the fingerprints of the weapon user with fingerprints stored in a store in the identification mechanism, the identification mechanism is activated. In other words, an activation signal is sent to the receiver, which signal places the weapon into a state of readiness to fire, i.e. the aforementioned activation or active state. This activation signal can be a coded signal, such as a frequency-modulated RF signal or in other words, can be a coded activation signal.

Please replace paragraph [0029] with the following amended paragraph:

[0029] The weapon 1 includes a module 20, on which a receiver 25 which includes the receiving antenna 17, and a microprocessor 18 are included. The microprocessor 18 is configured to activate the weapon 1 upon receipt of an

activation signal 16, thus placing the weapon 1 in a state of readiness to fire or in other words, in the active state which permits firing of the weapon. The weapon 1 is placed in this activated state by the unlocking of an electromechanical locking mechanism 26 or a similar safety mechanism.

Please replace paragraph [0031] with the following amended paragraph:

[0031] The transmitter 24 in the identification mechanism 2 continuously emits signals 19 toward the receiver 25 in the weapon 1 for the distance measuring function. When the field strength of the signals 19 received by the receiver 25 is less than the field strength of the signals 19 which the receiver 25 receives when the transmitter 24 of the identification mechanism 2 is at the specified maximum distance A from the receiver, the microprocessor 18 deactivates the weapon 1, thus placing the weapon in a state, i.e. the inactive state, in which it is prevented from firing.